MARY J BLIGE TALKS DIVA TENDENCIES
THE WORD {page 12}

ONLY 'FOOLS' DON'T CHECK OUT REVELS
ARTS {page 15}

METRO MAGIC
HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE
TAKE PART TODAY {page 04}

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BOSTON
Tuesday, December 20, 2011
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Thieves make up own holiday deals

Scofflaws including perfume and panty bandits are looking for gifts, too Cops warn stores as holiday rush brings more people, opportunity for merchandise to go missing Seeking public's help to identify suspects caught on camera {page 02}

BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

▶ Burlington police released surveillance images of an alleged shoplifter with the hope that the public could help identify her.

News

All eyes on N. Korea leadership

Kim Jong-un hasn't had much time to build a following Future could hold unrest ... or reintegration {page 08}

Jeremy Renner, action hero

He's taken on an 'Impossible' new role, and next year sees him as Hawkeye {page 16}

Boring love life? Book some fun!

Yournovel.com will turn your reality into a fantasy {page 14}

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Cops try to curb holiday capers

From panties to sunglasses, thieves helping themselves to their own holiday deals ◗ Cops say they warn businesses about holiday shoplifting ◗ Security pros see items stolen from workplaces during holidays, too

BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

▶ Panties are just one of the items stolen from local department stores this holiday season. Anyone with information on the alleged panty thieves can call 781-505-4933.

It's the most sticky-handed time of the year for gift-giving crooks.

Products are disappearing off of store counters and displays and police and security officials are asking the public to help identify the alleged thieves who are captured on surveillance cameras.

In an attempt to combat the holiday thievery, authorities look to the stores.

In Foxborough, where police are looking for a man who stole hundreds of dollars worth of sunglasses from a store at Patriot Place, police said they speak with shop owners before the start of the holiday season.

"Sometimes the stores themselves miss important cues to indicate something is taking place," said Foxborough Police Chief Ed O'Leary. "Stores with only one person on the floor are targets because one person can distract the clerk and the other does the actual theft."

O'Leary said that store operators have told him that they've been hit by thieves who take smaller items, sometimes of lesser value, that are easier to conceal.

And while many stores have surveillance images to aid police after a theft, it does not mean the suspect will be caught.

"A more difficult task is getting that person identified by the public," O'Leary said.

Stores are not the only victims of the holiday swiping.

Richard Avery, the president of Securitas Security Services New England, said businesses experience an increase in employee theft this time of year.

"There's usually a marked increase in internal thefts that most companies want to stop," Avery said, citing batteries and printing paper as some common examples. "Or, say if you're manufacturing clothing, somebody may want to take some items home."

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

The loot

Police are looking to identify suspects in some recent department store and mall thefts:

- On Dec. 9, two women stole **$4,700 worth of cotton panties** from the Victoria's Secret at the Burlington Mall. Police said they believe one of the women is responsible for multiple thefts from the store in the past year.
- On Nov. 27, two men stole **two pairs of sunglasses worth nearly $500** from the Solstice Sunglass Boutique at Patriot Place.
- On Nov. 26, two women stole more than **$250 worth of merchandise from the Gap** in Brookline. Police said they may also be responsible for committing similar crimes in Copley Square and Faneuil Hall.
- On Nov. 4, two women went in to a store at the South Shore Plaza and stole **16 bottles of Chanel perfume**.

In the news

30

Number of anonymous donors that went to a Braintree Kmart over the weekend and paid off other peoples' layaway accounts for Christmas gifts. According to reports, it is a common trend that has happened at several of the retail shop's locations. METRO

Today's local tweet

"The only people more incompetent than the clowns running the MBTA are the bozos that forecast Boston weather."

@JMHALL13, ON THE COMMUTE HOME MONDAY NIGHT

T cop accused of mailing dead rats

BOSTON. An MBTA officer accused of allegedly mailing dead rats has been placed on administrative leave by the Transit Police Department, according to T officials.

Officer Greg Thorpe has been placed on leave pending the results of an internal investigation.

Transit Police Chief Paul MacMillan said he would not comment further during the ongoing investigation.

No charges have been filed against Thorpe, according to reports from WBZ. METRO

Pops goes the alleged thief

BOSTON. A 26-year-old Framingham woman pleaded not guilty yesterday to purse snatching during a Boston Pops concert at Symphony Hall.

Chelsea Ingalls was released on her own recognizance, but was ordered to stay away from the victims and Symphony Hall.

Ingalls was approached by officers because she fit the description of the suspect that allegedly stole two purses from patrons at the venue.

Police found items belonging to both victims in Ingalls' own purse after they did a search. METRO

Police investigate sick infant

DORCHESTER. Police are investigating how a toddler became critically ill while inside a Dorchester home.

Officers responded to 70 Ames St., about 2:20 a.m. yesterday and found the girl in distress and not breathing.

The 2-year-old was taken to Boston Medical Center and is in critical condition.

There were no visible signs of trauma, police said, and the homicide unit is investigating. METRO

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Occupy Harvard coal-esces for Xmas

Occupy Harvard members showed their Christmas spirit and hand-delivered gifts to "the worst gentlemen at Harvard" this week.

As part of the occupation's second phase, where protesters focus less on camping out and more on direct action to spread their message, they stopped by several big wig's offices and gave them presents complete with lumps of coal and personalized notes.

Goldman Sachs topped the group's naughty list, followed by university officials like Robert Rubin and Larry Summers. METRO

'Most Wanted' probie dead

Authorities hunting the state's "Most Wanted" probationers will not find one of the men on the list because he is dead.

Scott Kittredge died in Maine in 2002, authorities said.

The Probation Department released its list of most wanted probationers last week, and Kittredge was one of the 10 men on the list.

Kittredge, formerly of Methuen, was wanted for armed assault to murder, carjacking and armed robbery. METRO

New unit to patrol nightclubs

- Menino launches new unit in wake of violence outside clubs
- All late night entertainment venues will be scrutinized

Citing public safety issues and disturbances, Mayor Thomas Menino said yesterday he will create a Nightclub Enforcement Unit to conduct regular and random inspections of the city's late night entertainment venues.

"Establishing a cohesive inspection unit will allow us to better enforce permitting and licensing requirements that will protect public safety and reduce excessive noise, overcrowding, and other quality of life issues," Menino said in a statement.

The city said that "all popular late night entertainment venues, not just those designated by statute as nightclubs," will be subject to the inspections.

Officials said the unit is needed because of repetitive violations and an increase in new complaints that have arisen from accordion windows, patios, smoking areas and roof decks.

Members from the licensing board and the fire, police and inspectional services departments will make up the unit, which will conduct random, unannounced inspections about every three months.

"I want to ensure that Boston's late night entertainment venues remain safe and fun places for our residents and visitors to enjoy," Menino said.

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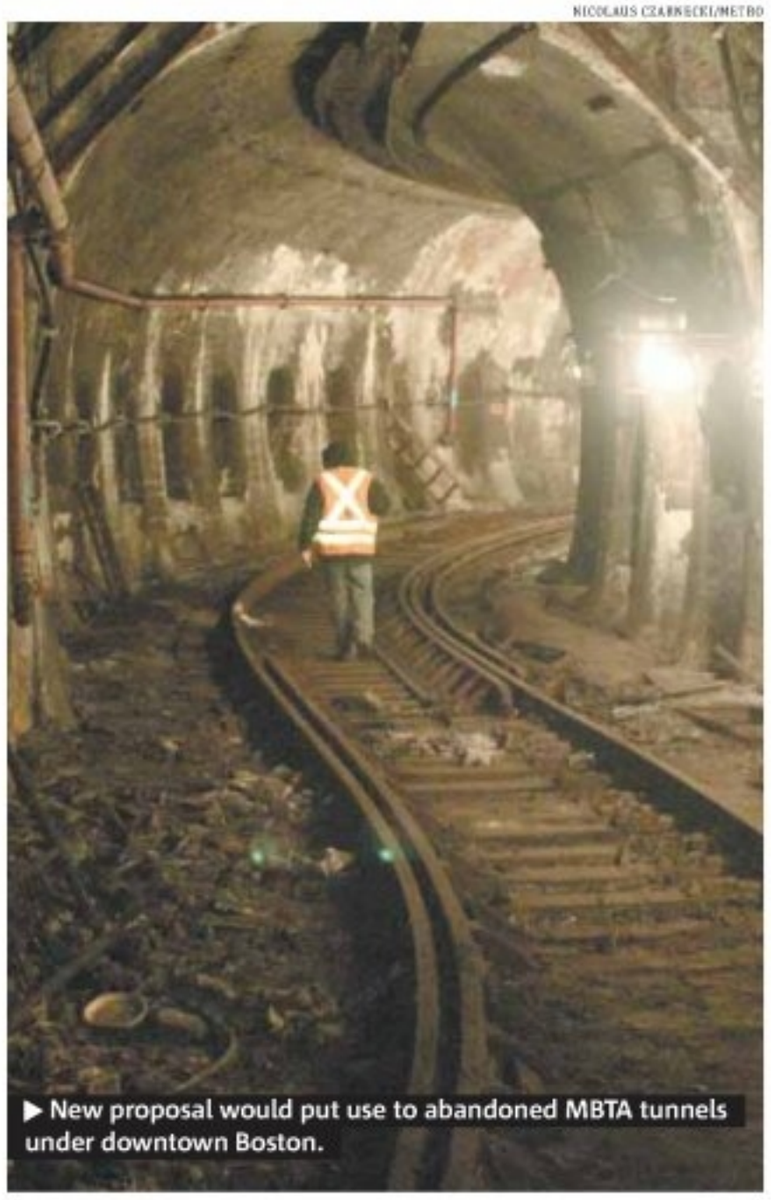

▶ New proposal would put use to abandoned MBTA tunnels under downtown Boston.

Architects want to turn T tunnels into thriving attractions

Keeping the dream alive

- The space could bring revenue to the T
- Private funding would be sought
- T could make a train museum underground

◗ Designers look for support to create underground art space ◗ Vacant tunnels would become nightlife scene ◗ Concept is similar to other cities

A year after two local architects launched a plan to turn abandoned underground MBTA tunnels into tourist attractions and walkways, the creators are reigniting public interest in the idea.

"There was a loss of momentum," said Sapir Ng, one of the designers. "But we have developed the concept more ... and we are looking for [the T's] support."

The "Tremont Underground Theater Space," was once an award-winning design developed by Ng and Andrzej Zarzycki, but it fizzled.

THE-TUTS.ORG

▶ Proposal rendering

The pair dreamed of revamping unused space where trains once ran, turning them into a network of underground, interactive social environments filled with artwork and theater acts connecting several city points.

Ng said he plans to contact community groups in the area above the tunnels, and reach out to Emerson College and Suffolk University, after he talks with T officials in the new year.

"People were really enthusiastic about this idea. It would be a shame to abandon it," he said.

According to T spokesman Joe Pesaturo, the duo is "welcome" to pitch the project, but such a proposal would require reviews from a number of departments.

Paul Regan, executive director of the MBTA Advisory Board, said he would "love to see the conversation happen."

"I think it's a good idea to utilize the empty space and an innovative thing that could bring lots of life to downtown," he said.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

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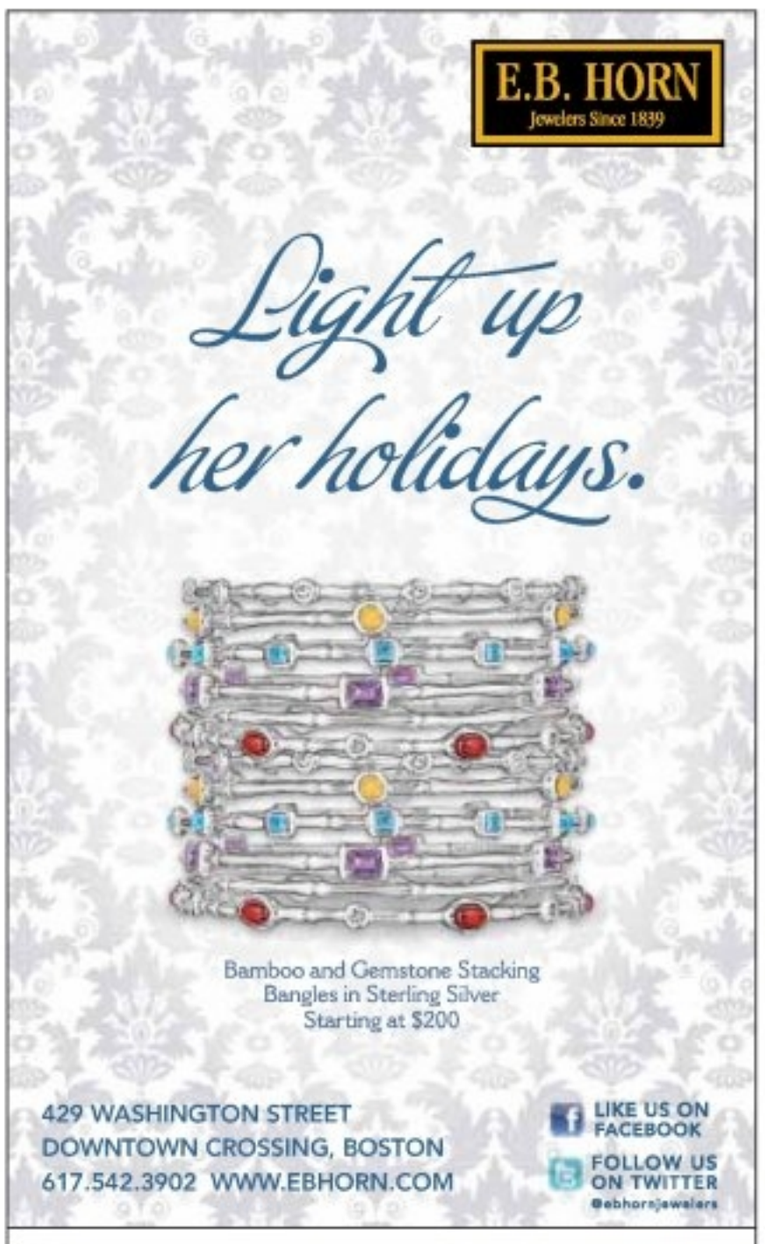
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Instability now reigning power in North Korea

With death of powerful leader, questions loom for future of communist dynasty Will the young son of Kim Jong-il be able to maintain his delicate control?

▶ North Koreans cry en masse in apparent mourning for the death of Kim Jong-Il in this still grabbed from state media footage. Then again, if they don't cry convincingly enough, citizens of the Peoples Republic of North Korea could risk indefinite detention for their entire family.

In the short term, international worries over North Korea following the death of Kim Jong-il center on a potential domestic leadership struggle that could heighten the risk of renewed conflict on the peninsula.

In the much longer run, however, the death could also usher in a quite different challenge: the hugely expensive task of reunifying Korea and reintegrating the world's most isolated state into the global economy.

The coming days could be full of distinctly mixed signals. Yesterday morning, South Korean media reported the North had test-fired a short-range missile in what looked to be an early example of the sort of saber-rattling that many analysts fear.

All eyes will be on heir apparent Kim Jong-un to try to gauge whether he can truly take his father's place as undisputed national leader and commander of a military with some 5 million men under arms and perhaps up to eight nuclear warheads.

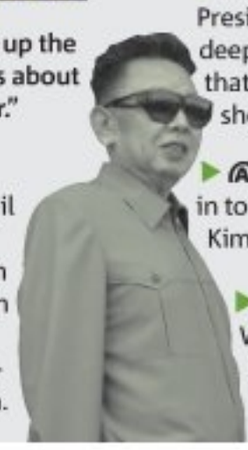
Many doubt that he can. The young man, about 28 years old, was only presented as his father's successor last year — leaving him little time to build support. REUTERS

Did you know?

Kim Jong-il once he needed painkillers for an injury. For one month, his administrative staff members were injected with the same painkiller as Dear Leader every day, according to his Japanese chef. Dear Leader was afraid he'd get addicted to painkillers and didn't want to be the only one.

The feed ...

We've rounded up the very best tweets about the "dear leader."



▶ **@Prince___Harry** Kim Jong il is dead but the citizens of North Korea have been told he's entered a sleeping competition.

▶ **@ElyseeFranglais** President N #Sarkozy express deep sadness on hearing that he is now officially shortest leader in world

▶ **@MarcMaietta** New Kim in town when "Kourtney and Kim Take Pyongyang"!

▶ **@mikepostalakis** Wow. Bin Laden. Gaddafi. Now Kim Jong? I'd tread carefully, Jay Leno.

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Gingrich fading in Iowa, nationally

Newt's time as GOP front-runner could soon be done
Drops to third in Iowa Lead gone in national poll

Presidential nominee Newt Gingrich's status as Republican front-runner is fading after weeks of attack ads from rivals and intense media exposure of his political history and personality.

A Public Policy Polling survey of likely Republican -caucus attendees in the key state of Iowa released yesterday showed the former House speaker dropping to third place there from first in the space of a week.

His lead also has evaporated in national poll.

"Newt Gingrich's campaign is rapidly imploding and Gingrich has now seen a big drop in his Iowa standing two weeks in a row," Public Policy Polling, which is affiliated with the Democratic Party, said in a statement.

Gingrich earned just 14 percent in the latest Iowa poll compared to 22 percent a week ago and 27 percent two weeks ago.

Congressman Ron Paul took over the lead with 23 percent, a five point increase in the past weeks. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Gingrich's main national rival, was second with 20 percent.

The survey of almost 600 people, taken Dec. 16-18, had a 4 percentage point margin of error.

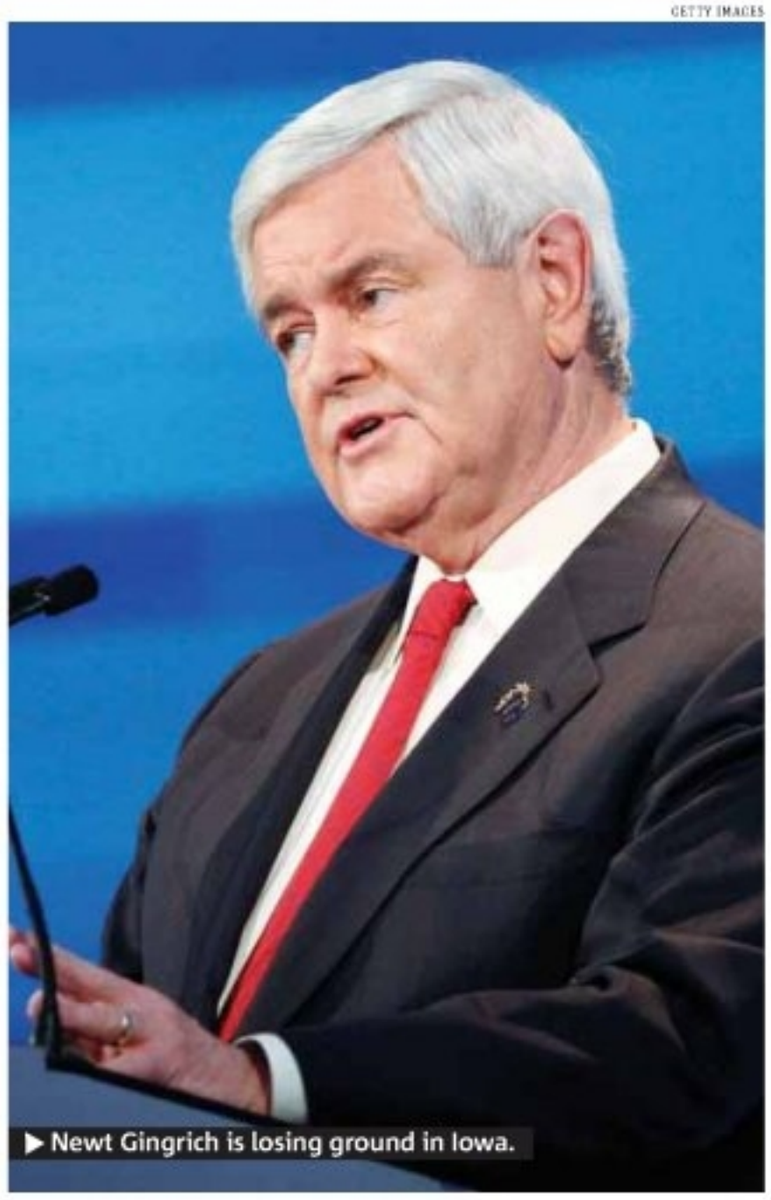
REUTERS

Tax break dead?

House Speaker John Boehner yesterday effectively killed a short-term tax break and called on lawmakers to negotiate a full year payroll tax cut extension for 160 million U.S. workers.

"The idea that tax policy can be done two months at a time is the kind of activity we see here in Washington that will put the economy off its track," he said. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Newt Gingrich is losing ground in Iowa.

metro MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2011

Apple co-founder Steve Jobs received two votes for every one for the Occupy movement yesterday, as voting in Metro's Man and Woman of the Year event continues. The two nominees are almost neck and neck — the Occupy movement retains a lead, but it is a fraction of what it was before the weekend.

To vote: Send your pick to mwoty@metro.us. The choices are Steve Jobs, the Occupy movement, or Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Voting ends at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22.

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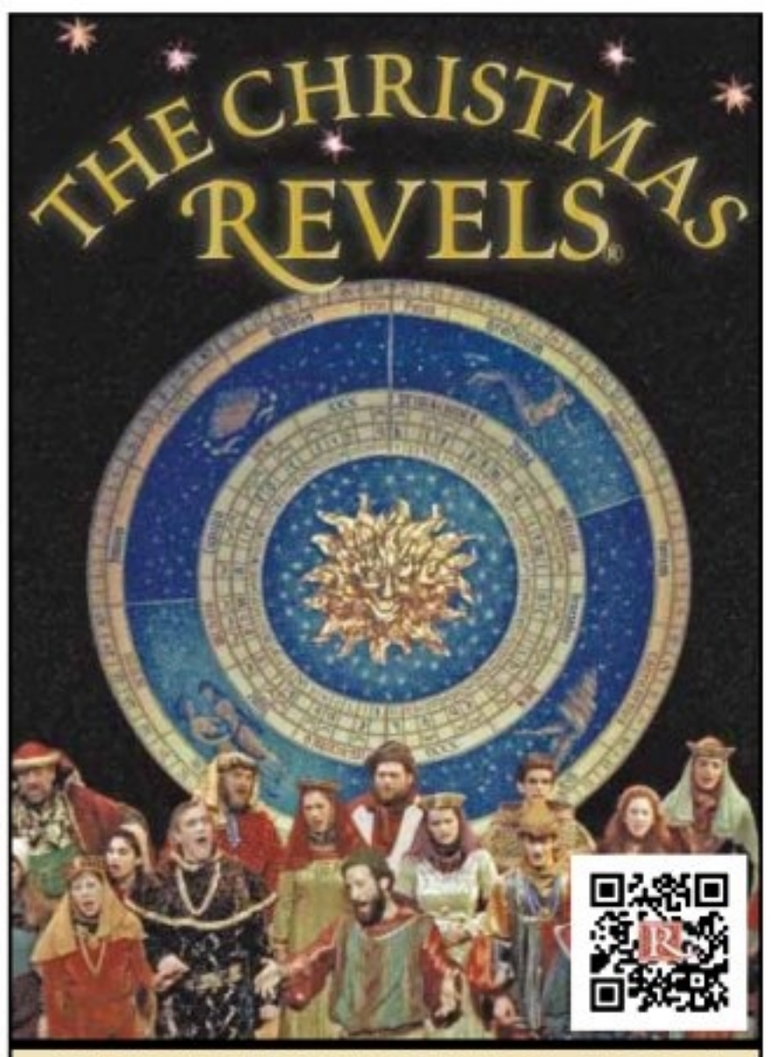

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Saudi prince buys Twitter stake

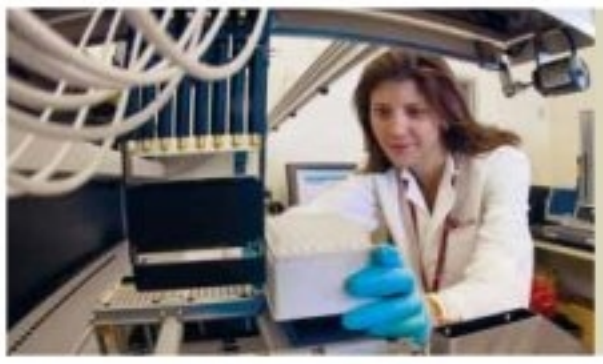
DUBAI. Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, the Saudi billionaire and an investor in some of the world's top companies, has bought a stake in microblogging site Twitter for $300 million, gaining another foothold in the global media industry.

Alwaleed, a nephew of Saudi Arabia's king who was estimated by Forbes magazine this year to have a fortune of more than $19 billion, already owns a 7 percent stake in News Corp. and plans to start a cable news channel.

Twitter was a key means of communication for protesters in the Arab Spring revolts this year, violence that threatened Saudi Arabia until the kingdom unveiled a populist $130 billion social spending package.

REUTERS

WRITE TO METRO:
LETTERS@METRO.US



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2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Piers Morgan is going by the rule of threes, Howard Stern wants some news, Joan Rivers is adhering to tradition and Bette Midler is in pain.

▶ @piersmorgan
Not a great year for tyrants... BinLaden, Gadhafi, now Kim Jong-il

▶ @HowardStern
Can't find a newspaper.

▶ @Joan_Rivers
The recipe for Christmas goose is the same as Hanukkah goose. The difference is we let the housekeeper cook it.

▶ @BetteMidler
Yes many things are horrible, but how about ingrown toenails? Mommmeeeeee!!!!!!!

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

These soulful singers on their diva-like behavior

It was a diva-licious red carpet Sunday night at New York City's Hammerstein Ballroom in honor of "VH1 Divas Celebrates Soul," where the music channel paid homage to the cities that inspire today's soulful divas. But luckily, the star-studded performers who rocked the red carpet weren't such prima donnas that they wouldn't stop and chat with Metro to dish about their most diva-like behavior.

— With additional reporting by Jeryl Brunner

"What do I diva out most about? When I'm hungry or cold. When I'm hungry, I'm cranky. I've gotta eat. And when I'm cold, I'm not comfortable." MARY J. BLIGE

"I'm a diva with my food. Being a Weight Watchers girl, I only get so many points, so you don't want to waste them. So I [become a real] diva about my food." JENNIFER HUDSON

"VH1 Divas Celebrates Soul" premiered yesterday on VH1. But don't worry, you can catch the show in reruns all week.

"My nails! [Giggles] I'm very excited about seeing all these divas. I don't put myself in that class. But if someone says I'm a diva, then I guess I am." DOLLY PARTON

"I can't stand to have my feet hurt. I can't bear it. It changes my whole personality. I normally carry flip-flops. I went to the Grammy's in flip flops one year because my shoes hurt so bad." JILL SCOTT

"I like to think I'm a pretty humble. My [contract] rider is pretty simple. It's just water and a bottle of coconut Ciroc. It mellows me out a little bit before the show. But if I don't get it, I don't cause a fit. I don't complain. I didn't get it tonight, and I'm happy." TRAVIE MCCOY

"I diva out about my music. I have to be, baby. It's what I do. It's what I do. It's my life. It's my sanity." CHAKA KHAN

His 50 Cents on Chaka Khan

50 Cent didn't have much to say about being a diva, but he did want to talk about his love for date **Chaka Khan.** "Chaka Khan — there are so many things," he told us. "Let me sit here to explain this to you to make sure you get this. [It's] the tone of her voice, the choices she has made in music, [the people she] influenced — you know how many babies were made to Chaka Khan?"

Talking points

No Bieber, there isn't a Santa Claus

Justin Bieber never believed in Santa Claus. "My mom always told me there wasn't a Santa," the pop star tells AOL Music. "This was her logic: She thought if I grew up knowing about Santa then finding out he wasn't real, that it would be like she was lying to me. And then when she told me about God, I maybe wouldn't believe her." Luckily, it was a tidbit that Bieber was good enough to keep to himself. "I didn't tell my friends or ruin it for anyone," he says. "I was a good kid."

Lohan sells out again and again

For the first time in a long while, **Lindsay Lohan** has a bona fide hit on her hands. Retailers are reportedly having trouble keeping copies of her issue of Playboy in stock, according to TMZ. There also has been a surge of online subscribers to the magazine's website since the release of the troubled actress's naked pictorial.

Ellen moves in to Pitt's home

Brad Pitt didn't have to look far to find a buyer for his Malibu mansion: **Ellen DeGeneres** and **Portia de Rossi** snatched up the $12 million property with private beach access, according to Us Weekly. "It was a quick transaction and Brad's stuff is already out," a source says. "[They] would like to start using the house immediately."

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Celebs counting down to Christmas

1. Luke Pritchard of The Kooks performed on stage at the O2 Academy on Sunday in Leeds, U.K.

2. Justin Bieber and Stevie Wonder performed onstage at Stevie Wonder's 16th annual House Full of Toys benefit concert held at Nokia Theatre on Saturday in Los Angeles, Calif.

3. Chris Martin of Coldplay performed in Rotterdam, Netherlands on Saturday.

4. Bryan Batt signed his new book "Big, Easy Style: Creating Rooms You Love To Live In" at Bergdorf Goodman on Saturday in New York City.

5. Actress Kathy Griffin made Christmas cards with holiday shoppers at Westfield Culver City shopping mall Sunday in Culver City, Calif.

6. Scott Weiland performed songs from his Christmas album "Most Wonderful Time of the Year" at the City Winery on Saturday in New York City.

7. Designer Patricia Field attended her 2011 Rock & Shop Trunk Show at the Patricia Field Boutique on Sunday in New York City.

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mybooks

You and me could write a bad romance

Answer a series of questions about your partner and Yournovel.com will take the two of you out of your daily routine and put you in a wild fantasy

When a friend asked Kathy Newbern-Fletcher what people would be surprised to know about her, she had no idea where the answer would lead her.

"I said I had written a then-unpublished romance novel," she says, "and over lunch, one of my friends just said in passing, 'Wouldn't it be really fun if you could read about yourself in one of those books?'"

That day, Yournovel.com was conceived.

Flash-forward to more than 20 years later, and couples can answer 26 online questions about their relationship — her pet name, the car he drives, her favorite lingerie color — and Yournovel.com creators Newbern and husband J.S. Fletcher will put the details into one of their selected 28 different romance novels and personalize the love story. The books are priced between $40 and $100, with the choice to customize the front cover with a picture of the star couple.

Ranging "from mild to wild," the stories to choose from on Yournovel.com take the relationship out of its comfort zone and place the couples anywhere from an African safari to a sultry Tahitian adventure on the Caribbean.

Newbern-Fletcher says that despite the variations in names and details, the stories all have the same underlying message.

"Even though the books are fun and campy ... we also really like that they are delivering what we hope is the message ... you can have fame and fortune, but if you've lost love, you've lost everything."

▶ Newbern-Fletcher, right, and her husband J.S. seem to still find a spark in their relationship.

SAMANTHA SWEENEY
letters@metro.us

So exactly how much romance?

Despite the sexy scenes in some of the more "wild" novels, customers try to heat up the action even further.

"We've had people say, 'Make mine X-rated, or triple X-rated,' and I have to be like, 'No, I can't go there,'" says Newbern-Fletcher.

TV watch list

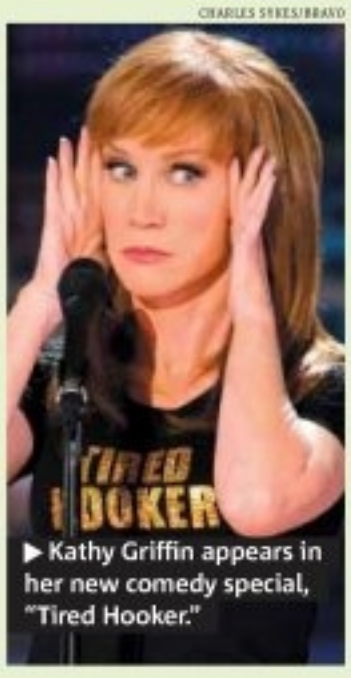
'Christmas at St. Olaf'

SPECIAL. The Minnesota college celebrates 100 years of its annual musical celebration of the holidays. 9 p.m., PBS

'Kathy Griffin: Tired Hooker'

SPECIAL. Maybe the comedian took some inspiration for the title of her current standup special from her own workload — Griffin's done four of these in the last year alone.
Premiere, 10 p.m., Bravo

CHARLES SYKES/BRAVO



▶ Kathy Griffin appears in her new comedy special, "Tired Hooker."

'Lidia Celebrates America'

REALITY. The Italian cuisine queen celebrates the food and holiday traditions of immigrants that have made the dinner tables of America so eclectic — and so very delicious — in this four-part series.
Miniseries premiere, 8 p.m., PBS

'SNL Presents: A Very Gilly Christmas'

SPECIAL. "Saturday Night Live" unwraps two hours of its best holiday sketches — Steve Martin! Alec Baldwin! — through the years. Kristen Wiig's mischievous schoolgirl Gilly presides over the festivities. 9 p.m., NBC

AMBER RAY

myentertainment

‘Ship of Fools’ rushes in for Revels

Director talks old proverbs and new ideas for getting an enormous boat into the small entrance in the Sanders Theatre Hint: It’s a puzzle

▶ The Revels’ “Ship of Fools,” designed by Cambridge artist Mitch Ryerson, is filled with actors, from left, Sabrina Mandell, Mark Jaster and Tim Sawyer.

ROGER IDE

Back in medieval times, villages dealt with their crazy people by sending them out to sea to drift on a boat with no captain.

“It’s a very strong allegory, this idea of the ‘Ship of Fools’ wandering about without a rudder,” explains Patrick Swanson, director of the 41st annual Christmas Revels. “The world upside down is encapsulated in a boat.”

Every year, the Revels show is about rebirth, ringing in a new year. Sometimes the tale is serious, other times it’s funny.

“This year it’s mostly funny,” Swanson assures.

The story takes place in a 16th century Mediterranean fishing village, where three fools are responsible for an annual pageant to mark the new year.

“We’re in the hands of three characters who bumble their way through the whole process,” he says.

Needless to say, they end up alone at sea.

Local artist Mitch Ryerson had a challenging task: building a “Ship of Fools” for the production.

“Sanders is a peculiar theater,” says Swanson. “There's no way to get anything large on the stage through its small doors. Mitch had to create a prop for us in the form of a giant jigsaw puzzle that gets put together as the show progresses.”

NORA DUNNE
nora.dunne@metro.us

If you go

Christmas Revels: ‘Ship of Fools’
Through Dec. 29
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge
$25-$52, 617-496-2222
www.revels.org

Culture and tradition

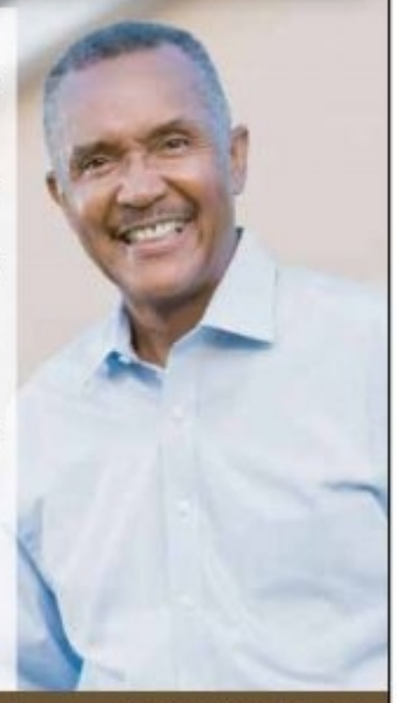
The Revels observe many traditions in their show every year: Poems are read, carols sung and a dance is performed by the chorus and audience together.

“Every year there is new context for these familiar things that people expect,” says Swanson. “We like to introduce different cultures.”

This year, there will be visitors from the East: the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble.

myentertainment&style

Men 65 and Older Needed for a Research Study



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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Renner is all smiles for his post-Oscar nod career.

MAN OF ACTION

His mission? To steal the limelight from Tom Cruise in 'Mission: Impossible 4' 'I don't know if I've managed to do that," says a modest Jeremy Renner

After Oscar nominations for the dramas "The Hurt Locker" and "The Town," actor Jeremy Renner did what any self-respecting Californian would do: Take roles where he could blow stuff up in big action movies. Besides this week's "Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol," opposite Tom Cruise, he's got next year's "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters," plays Hawkman in "The Avengers" and takes over for Matt Damon (as a new character) in "The Bourne Supremacy."

"Sometimes he came across like this super experienced guy, paying attention to every single thing happening on set. Other times, he would be like a teenager in an adult's body, ready to take on the craziest of stunts."
RENNER, ON CO-STAR TOM CRUISE

"Suddenly, the offers came streaming in," he says of his life after the Academy Award nods. "Having worked in the industry for a long time, I know that you need to take these as they come."

In the fourth "Mission: Impossible," he plays Brandt, an analyst for the Ministry of Defense who teams up with Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise).

"The action is ongoing, but I wanted my character to be credible," insists the actor.

Renner also offers praise for Cruise, his producer and co-star. "He's 10 years older than me, and he works 72 hour days compared to my 20," he says. "Sometimes he came across like this super experienced guy, paying attention to every single thing happening on set. Other times, he would be like a teenager in an adult's body, ready to take on the craziest of stunts."

Like climbing up the highest tower in the world in Dubai?

"I wouldn't have been able to do the stunt myself," says Renner, who, despite his action movie cred, has his limits. "I'm scared of heights."

JEROME VERMELIN
METRO WORLD NEWS

Street style from around the world

Meghan Stafford Kelly

KARL-EDWIN GUERRE

Occupation: Fashion designer and stylist
Spotted: New York

What she's wearing: "I'm wearing a Hermes scarf as a belt, Ralph Lauren Collection boots, antique Victorian gold cuffs and the rest is vintage."
Her style: "Old vintage with a modern twist."
The one item of clothing that every woman should have in her closet: "Scarves. They're a versatile and an elegant addition to any look."
The one item of clothing that she would save from her wardrobe: "My vintage Halston slip wedding dress. It's very wearable, and of course I'd keep it for sentimental reasons."
KARL-EDWIN GUERRE

Occupation: Dancer
Spotted: London

Danielle Hampson

What she's wearing: "I'm wearing Doc Martens boots, a shirt from Beyond Retro, a jacket from Zara, a Topshop jumpsuit and a Vivienne Westwood purse."
Her look: "I like to look after my appearance, and I try to keep up with the trends."
The one trend that she would banish from existence: "I'd get rid of Crocs and velour tracksuits. They both look dreadful."
MICHELLE BOBB-PARRIS

MICHELLE BOBB-PARRIS GIIA

Occupation: Fashion designer
Spotted: Milan

Nunzio de Prete

What he's wearing: "I'm wearing Doc Marten shoes, Maison Martin Margiela jeans, a Cos jumper, a vintage jacket and an Idem scarf."
The one item of clothing that he'd wear everyday for the rest of his life: " I love to layer a gilet over the top of other clothes."
The one trend that he'd banish from existence: "Hello Kitty or any other cartoon that is made for the adult market." GIIA

mywellbeing

Getting crafty this Christmas

Involve your little ones in the holiday prep by letting them get hands-on with decorations and gifts It's a fun, cheap, creative way to spend quality time together

Holiday crafting is not just a practical way of whiling away cold winter afternoons; it offers a nice excuse for parents to spend quality time with their kids, creating festive rituals that bond the family. Here is a project everyone will want to partake in.

Stained-glass windows

Ingredients:
2 oz soft, light brown sugar
2 oz butter, softened
1 small egg
4½ oz plain flour
½ oz cornflour
1 teaspoon all-spice
20 hard candies

You will need:
- A large-shaped cookie cutter
- A drinking straw
- A small round cutter, slightly bigger than the cookies

Directions:

1 Heat the oven to 350F. Grease and line a baking tray.

2 Beat the sugar and butter in a large bowl. Mix half the egg into the butter and sugar. Stir in the flour, cornflour and all-spice. Mix together really well.

3 Squeeze the mixture together to form a ball of dough. Roll out the dough until it is as thick as your pinky finger. Use the large cutter to cut out shapes. Lift them onto the tray with a spatula. Squeeze the scraps together and roll them out again. Cut out more cookies.

4 Make a hole in each cookie by pressing the straw through the dough, near the top of each one. Use the small, round cutter to cut a hole in the middle of each cookies.

5 Put a candy piece into the hole in the middle of each cookie. Bake for 12 minutes. Leave on the tray to cool, and then apply icing. Once the icing sets, tie a ribbon through the small hole and hang the cookie on your tree.

—From "Usborne Christmas Baking for Children," by Fiona Patchett, www.usborne.com

EMMA E. FORREST
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

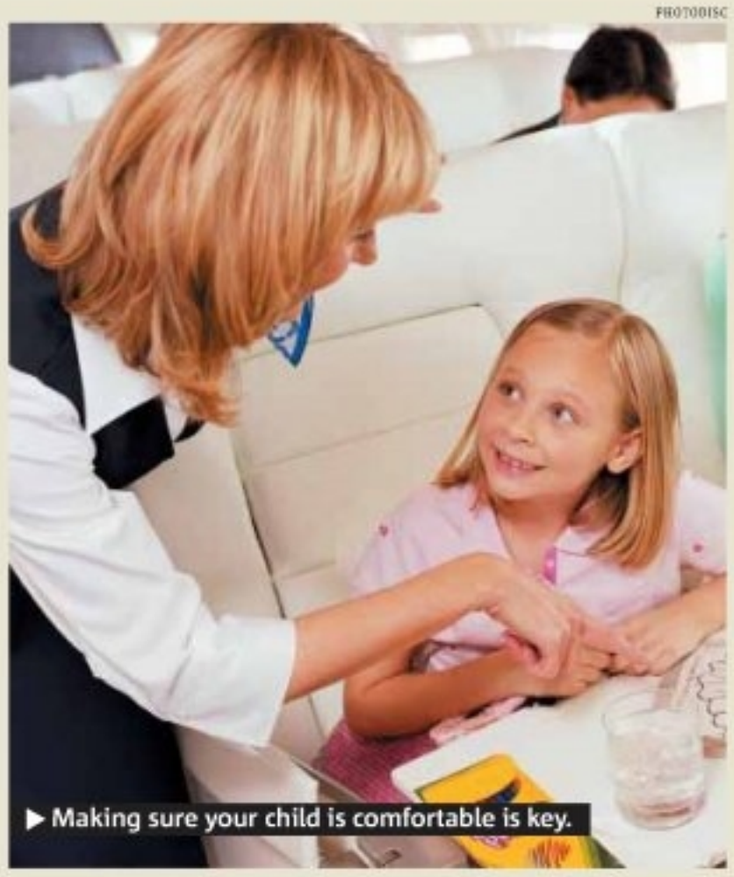
Advice

Prepare for landing

Flying can be no fun for kids who are prone to ear pain caused by pressure differences between the inside and outside of the eardrum. But you can make plane trips a little easier.

- Swallowing, chewing and yawning all help equalize pressure. Have your older kid chew gum, and breastfeed or give your baby a bottle.
- Give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen a half hour before landing, since this is when pressure differences make ears hurt the most.
- Book a nonstop flight if possible when planning your vacation, since multiple descents cause more strain on the ears. RACHEL MORRIS FOR PARENTS MAGAZINE

PHOTODISC


Making sure your child is comfortable is key.

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Charity

For the Bieber obsessed

High school freshmen Lizzie Halper & Ellie Wessinger just released their first self-published book, "Got Bieber Fever? A Fan's Guide," with all proceeds going to Pencils for Promise, a Bieber-supported organization that seeks to build schools in developing countries. The 148-page coffee table book contains never-before-seen photos by New York Times photographer Robert Caplin, who toured with Bieber for six months. **$18, www.amazon.com** METRO/ME

Halper and Wessinger got to show the Biebs their creation this November.
ROBERT CAPLIN

Depression is gone, but how is your sex drive?

Boston Clinical Trials is currently seeking participants for a Clinical Research Study evaluating the effects of an investigational medication on sexual functioning in adults with well treated depression.
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Letters

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We need our troops at home

RE: "IRAQ WAR ENDS, TROOPS COME HOME": It was good to see heavy "coming home from Iraq" coverage in Metro, unlike elsewhere. Metro wrote of troops at the Iraq border in Kuwait cheering that the last column made it without incident. If we are willing to ignore U.S. troops being shot at, we could leave Afghanistan in a month as well. **RICHARD KANE, VIA E-MAIL**

I'm sure everyone is glad that our troops are coming home from Iraq. However, we still have troops stationed in more than 100 countries — and are are building more bases overseas while closing bases at home. Our leaders tell us that our country is being protected by U.S. involvement in foreign conflicts. Why are they not concerned about protecting our borders? We must protect our country by bringing our troops home, building up our defenses at home and controlling our borders.
JANET MCCARTHY, VIA E-MAIL

Vote the little kings out now

If there was ever a time for term limits it is now. Our elected officials think they are kings for life. How else could they justify being bought and paid for by corporate America — with absolutely no interest in the American people? Let's vote out the career politician from sea to shining sea!
MIKE MILLER, VIA E-MAIL

Eight out of 10 not too bad?

I see that Newt has been soaring in polls among Christian conservatives. Are these the same people who would place the 10 Commandments at their courthouse door? If "Thou shalt not commit adultery" and "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife" are truly pinnacles of American law to be devoutly enforced, they why would they choose such a blatant violator as their champion?
CHARLIE CHACE, VIA E-MAIL

Why give Obama ultimate power?

The Democrat co-traitors say Obama's promise not to apply indefinite detention to American citizens in this country is enough for them to approve treason. Our hope and prayer is that the Supreme Court will do its duty and declare this treason as well as unconstitutional and throw them all in jail for attempting to overthrow democracy.
CHARLES COUCH, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Just because you're at a boisterous event doesn't mean you can't command the type of attention that you'd like. You'll find that whispering will have more impact than shouting.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If there is someone you know who could use a little help, you should yield to your charitable inclinations and pitch in. Your good deed will produce a huge harvest.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Trust your instincts regarding the outcome of events, because they're likely to be more accurate than your common sense. This time, things could be as good as you hope.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Speak up if you have something to say when a self-appointed person is fouling up the works. You're the one who'll know how to handle it without making that individual look bad.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Discovering that others are talking about you is no cause for alarm, because what they are saying would actually flatter you. Don't jump to conclusions.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Don't hesitate to let it be known that you must study any proposal brought to you, especially if a contract is involved. Take all the time you need to read in between the lines.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** There are some very strong indications that someone new could enter your life — if not today, then very soon. It'll be a person you'll like very much.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Getting involved in something creative in which you'll be using your hands as well as your mind will bring you much gratification. Don't hesitate to take on something new.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Don't be bashful about complimenting someone you've just met in front of others, and do let this person know how much you enjoy his or her company. She or he will be flattered.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Put your artistic talents to work during your spare time and beautify your surroundings instead of sitting around on the couch.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't turn down any invitation that gives you a chance to mix and meet with new, fun people. The more contacts you make, the more chances you'll have of meeting a truly nice friend.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Although they may come in increments, you'll have excellent chances for producing long-range benefits for yourself.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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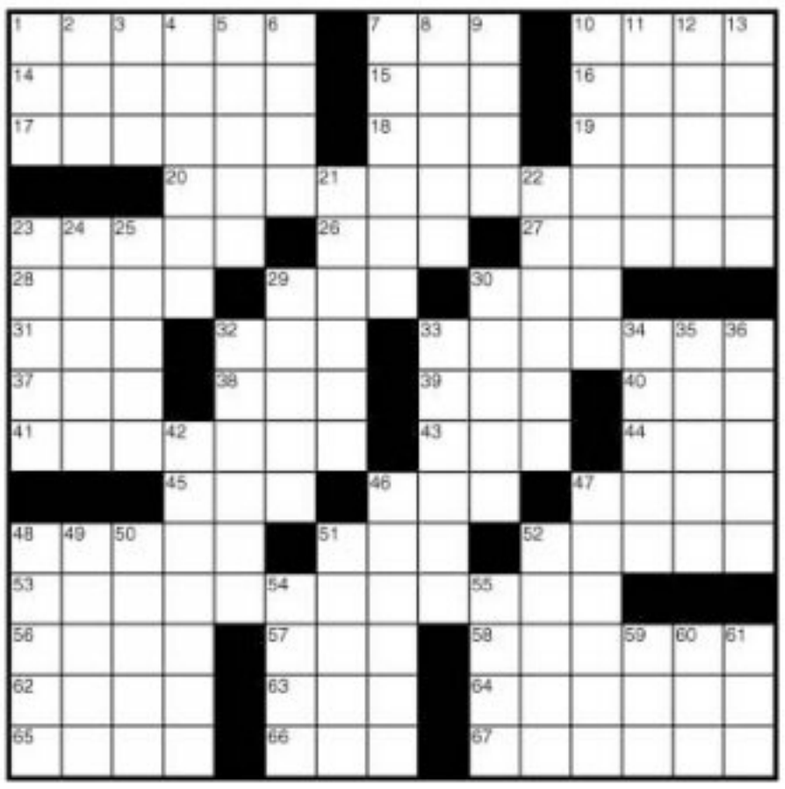

Across
1 Vampire's target
7 Biz rival
10 Goldfish
14 Draw squiggles
15 A Knute successor
16 "Typee" sequel
17 Return address
18 Toon pooch
19 Courts
20 Aerobic exercises(2 wds.)
23 North Dakota city
26 Genetic strand
27 Popped up
28 Burnoose wearer
29 Ostrich look-alike
30 Assist
31 King, in France
32 Move jauntily
33 Throb
37 Mdse. bill
38 Canape topper
39 Wolfed
40 Zero, in sports
41 Look closely
43 It's freezing!
44 Versatile vehicle
45 Go __ __ diet
46 Bluebottle
47 Paul Drake's creator
48 Parboil
51 Worthless coin
52 Elbow opposites
53 Classic car feature (2 wds.)
56 Fictional governess
57 Smokehouse hanger
58 Edge
62 Authorizes
63 Banjo cousin
64 Very tired
65 Toga party site
66 Glove sz.
67 Heavy hammer

Down
1 Gridiron stats
2 Weed whacker
3 Harry's sidekick
4 Chore (2 wds.)
5 Kayak owner, maybe
6 School period
7 Type of flour
8 Gladiator's place
9 Big __ theory
10 Fraidy-cats
11 It merged with BP
12 Black birds
13 Oater extras
21 Drive forward
22 Warden
23 Madame Curie
24 Socrates' forte
25 Gullible
29 Cash, casually
30 Film cowboy Gene __
32 Godfather portrayer
33 Baby food
34 Lapis lazuli color
35 Championship
36 "En garde" weapons
42 Most daring
46 Bubbled up
47 Dinner course
48 Ledge
49 More demure
50 Ventricle neighbor
51 Moccasin, maybe
52 Hillock
54 Baba au __
55 Subsides
59 Family man
60 Joule fraction
61 Deli bread

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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						8		7
	7	9	8					4
		7		2	3	1		8
		5				7		
9		2	4	1		3		
5					8	9	7	
8		3						
	9				4		8	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

T	O	G	O	■	L	O	U	P	E	■	D	E	J	A
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■	■	■	A	L	L	A	Y	■	Y	U	L	■	■	■
B	R	A	S	S	E	S	■	L	I	N	S	E	E	D
R	A	G	T	A	G	■	M	E	E	K	■	R	A	E
I	D	E	S	■	A	V	A	I	L	■	F	I	S	T
E	I	N	■	S	T	E	P	■	D	E	I	C	E	R
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P	L	E	B	E	■	I	L	E	■	N	I	C	E	R
R	U	B	B	E	R	N	E	C	K	■	E	L	M	O
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M	E	N	D	■	B	Y	R	O	N	■	T	E	T	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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holiday

Europe's best holiday markets

Nestled in the shadow of ancient cathedrals or in illuminated town squares, Europe's bustling holiday markets offer a taste of Christmas through the ages
Here, we highlight four very festive destinations and their best memory-making markets

▶ Strasbourg's Christmas market. Where Christmas fans shop.

FREDERICK FLORIN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Handcrafted gifts in France's Strasbourg

They don't call Strasbourg the Capital of Christmas for nothing: half-timbered houses, cobbled streets, a gothic Cathedral and garlands of lights set the mood for France's oldest and best Christmas market. In fact, there are 12 markets scattered around this canal-traced city, each with its own distinct pleasures. Intricate handcrafted gifts, ornaments and nativity figures spill from glittering stalls at Place de la Cathedrale's Marche de Noel and the ancient Christkindelsmarik at Place Broglie. Artisanal food stands at Place des Meuniers, proffer such delicacies as pain d'epices and hot, spiced wine.

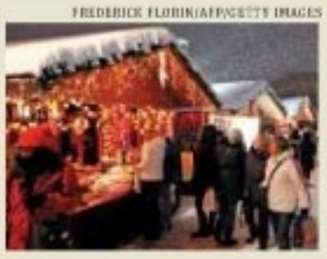
DIETER NAGL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Celebrate the holidays by going ice skating in London.

Christmas carols and ice skating in London

The city of London becomes one sprawling market at Christmastime, with revelry on every corner — from sing-along concerts at St. Martins-in-the-Fields to a medieval Christmas celebration and ice-skating at the Tower of London. Regents and Oxford streets' light displays put shoppers in the mood, and the historically minded can dine with Henry VIII and his new queen Catherine Howard at an authentic 1540 Christmas at Hampton Court Palace. Don't miss the Christmas Nightmare tour led by Ebenezer Scrooge, who explores London tombs while expounding on characters from Christmases past.

FREDERICK FLORIN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Celebratory flavors at the Old Viennese Christmas Market

The Magic of Advent market at Vienna's sprawling Rathausplatz market is the epitome of Christmas. Wooden stalls offer handmade gifts, sweets, the scent of roasting chestnuts and the traditional hot brandied Weihnachtspunsch, all under a towering 90-foot tree. The city's heritage is also vibrantly alive at the Old Viennese Christmas Market, where choral music fills the air.

Dazzling lights at Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens

Millions of dazzling Christmas lights at Copenhagen's historic Tivoli Gardens illuminate Denmark's most popular Christmas destination, with ice-skating on the lake, parades, carolers, firework displays and, of course, Santa Claus. For this year's Russian theme, visitors explore a Russian city, starring a replica of St. Basil's Cathedral complete with onion domes and carillon bells. The traditional Christmas market offers 70 stalls of local crafts and gifts.

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3

In the news

'Tis the season

Gambler's dream bowl season kicks into full gear tonight as Florida International takes on Marshall in the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl in St. Petersburg (8 p.m., ESPN). There will be at least one bowl game played a night, save for Christmas Day, right up until the New Year. METRO

In the news

Men's hoop poll

Men's hoop poll
The Harvard men's basketball team was once again in the ESPN/USA Today poll, coming in at No. 25. The 9-1 Crimson did not, however, make The Associated Press poll. Harvard will have full opportunity to cement its spot as the top college team in town next week on Dec. 29 when it takes on Boston College at Conte Forum.
METRO

Positioning in AFC race tightening up

Potential AFC playoff teams stumbling down stretch while Patriots have won six straight Houston loss to Carolina proves to be huge

Where have all the great teams gone?

There certainly aren't many that reside in the AFC these days as the once dominant conference seems to be cycling down in the opposite direction.

Ten years ago, the Patriots and the Steelers separated themselves as the class of the conference. Fast forward to 2011 and Kordell Stewart is a mediocre analyst on ESPN and Drew Bledsoe is selling and drinking copious amounts of wine in Walla Walla, Wash.

In the grand picture, however, not much has changed, the sustained excellence of these two franchises is undeniable and they are, without question, the favorites to meet in the AFC championship game once again in a little over a month.

A look at the rest of field as we inch closer to the playoffs.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ryan Matthew and the Chargers are suddenly hot in the AFC West.

Baltimore Ravens (10-4)

A tough team to figure out for sure, especially after getting thumped by San Diego on Sunday night. The Ravens should still be a favorite in any wild-card game, however, due to their undefeated record at home this season (7-0).

Houston Texans (10-4)

The Houston haters have plenty of fuel this week after Carolina came in and took a 28-13 road win. It seems the NFL book on how to frustrate T.J. Yates (what a read) has been written as he produced a dismal 56.5 passer rating against a dead-and-buried Carolina squad.

Denver Broncos (8-6)

Was Sunday's loss to the Patriots the beginning of Team Tebow losing its way? Yes and no. Yes in the fact that anytime the Denver defense faces a top line quarterback, they lose. The Broncos defense has looked fine against the likes of Caleb Hanie, Mark Sanchez, Matt Cassel and Carson Palmer. But Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Philip Rivers and Matthew Stafford have proven to be the difference in Denver losses.

Lucky for John Fox and Co., Denver has Buffalo and Kansas City left on its schedule. Should be two victories to get to 10 wins if this team is legit.

In the hunt

Oakland, San Diego and Tennessee own 7-7 records while Kansas City (6-8) is somehow still alive under interim head coach Romeo Crennel. San Diego has won three straight, the Raiders have lost their last three and Tennessee was embarrassed by previously winless Indianapolis Sunday.

Cincinnati Bengals (8-6)

You don't hear much about the Bengals and for good reason. They have yet to beat a quality opponent, and if this was the NCAA tournament they would not be receiving an at-large bid. There's always talk about certain teams being the one you "don't want to face" come playoff time. If Cincy slips in, this is the team you DO want to face.

New York Jets (8-6)

The Jets have made a living on getting hot at the right time and having the fortitude to pull out big road wins the past few years. This season, however, New York has struggled on the road with a 2-5 record. Even if they make the playoffs, getting a wild-card win away from the Meadowlands will be awfully tough.

MATT BURKE
sports@metro.us

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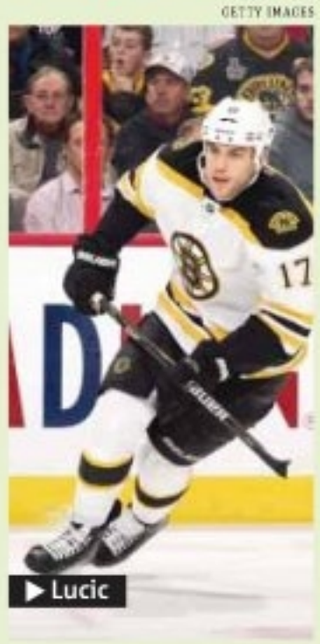

▶ Lucic

Lucic docked one game

Bruins forward Milan Lucic was suspended by the NHL for one game due to his hit on Philadelphia forward Zac Rinaldo Saturday.

NHL disciplinarian Brendan Shanahan said of the decision, "While this hit is not particularly egregious, it is illegal." METRO

Knicks could be handful

The Celtics dismissed their Atlantic Division foe rather easily last April, winning their first round series with New York 4-0.

But the Knicks have made some positive signings in this whacky free agent period, signing center Tyson Chandler last week and following that up with the signing of former All-Star point guard Baron Davis yesterday. Davis has struggled since leaving the Golden State Warriors over three years ago, but the guard still managed to average 13.9 points per game in games with the Clippers and Cavaliers last season. METRO

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Paterno released from hospital

Being treated for lung cancer, former Penn State coach showing improvement after tough week 85-year-old broke pelvis in fall at home Has had increasing amount of health problems since dismissal from school

Former Penn State football coach Joe Paterno was released from the hospital and has shown improvement after being treated for lung cancer, ESPN and The Associated Press reported Monday.

Paterno's tumor was showing reduction following chemotherapy and radiation according to an anonymous source that spoke to the AP. Paterno was reportedly released Sunday.

The 85-year-old Paterno was admitted to the hospital last week after he broke his pelvis in a fall at his home. Doctors kept him hospitalized to make it easier to administer cancer treatments while he recovered from the fracture, The Associated Press reported.

He initially injured his pelvis and right shoulder in August after getting blindsided accidentally by a receiver during preseason practice. The injuries kept Paterno in the press box most of the season before trustees fired him Nov. 9 in the aftermath of child sex abuse charges against retired assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

Paterno testified before a grand jury investigating Sandusky, but prosecutors have said he is not a target of the investigation. Sandusky, who has pleaded not guilty, is awaiting trial.

Paterno hasn't spoken publicly since he was fired from Penn State University. METRO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Former Penn State head football coach Joe Paterno was released from the hospital Sunday.

National analysis

Can Eagles slide into NFC playoffs?

FOOTBALL NATION

The Philadelphia Eagles are doing what many Andy Reid teams have done over the past decade — finishing strong in December. Should we believe the hype? While the Eagles are finally playing up to their preseason expectations the past two weeks — dominating the AFC East's Miami Dolphins and the New York Jets — they are still a mighty long shot to sneak into the NFC playoff picture.

Here's what needs to happen. First, the Eagles must head down to Dallas on Christmas Eve and knock off the Cowboys. The Birds crushed the Boys 34-7 earlier in the year, and you can bet Jerry's squad will be out for revenge. Later that night, the Eagles will become fans of the team they just demolished, the Jets, and hope that they defeat the crosstown rival Giants. If those two things fall into place, it sets up an interesting final weekend in the NFC East. The Eagles host the Redskins at Lincoln Financial Field. Simultaneously, the Cowboys and Giants will battle in the New Meadowlands. While Mike Vick and company are taking on the Skins, they'll be scoreboard watching to see if the Giants can ruin the Cowboys' season. If the Eagles and Giants both win, it will produce a three-way tie atop the division standings. Based upon the NFL tiebreaker system, the Eagles would take the division with a less than spectacular 8-8 win-loss record.

The Eagles are turning it on at the right time, but is it a case of being too little, too late?

FREDERICK WILHELM

C's front office quiet before season's storm

- Multiple 'big' moves fall through for Danny Ainge in free-agent frenzy
- Team will have to look to recent signings for Jeff Green replacement

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rajon Rondo drives to the bucket against Toronto over the weekend.

The silence must be killing Celtics boss Danny Ainge.

The longtime gambler isn't happy unless he's trying to make a big deal and as far as this brief offseason "signing period" goes, Ainge has seemingly come up empty.

He couldn't get New Orleans GM Dell Demps to bite on the Rajon Rondo for Chris Paul deal, nor could he pull off the coup of obtaining All-Star-caliber power forward David West.

The sign-and-trade of "Big Baby" Davis and guard Von Wafer for Brandon Bass looks to be a good one, but it will not exactly shift the landscape of the NBA anytime soon. If the Celtics are to make a big move, it likely won't happen until after the start of the season.

Old and injured

Captain Paul Pierce hasn't been able to practice due to a sore heel and did not participate in the Celtics 76-75 preseason win over Toronto on Sunday.

Kevin Garnett and Rondo have also dealt with small injuries during training camp. Picking up the slack for Boston in the Raptors game was small forward Marquis Daniels (27 minutes, 11 points), guard Keyon Dooling (18 minutes, five points) and power forward Chris Wilcox (19 minutes, seven points).

The Celtics play their only other preseason game tomorrow at TD Garden (7:30 p.m., CSNNE) again against the Raptors.

MATT BURKE
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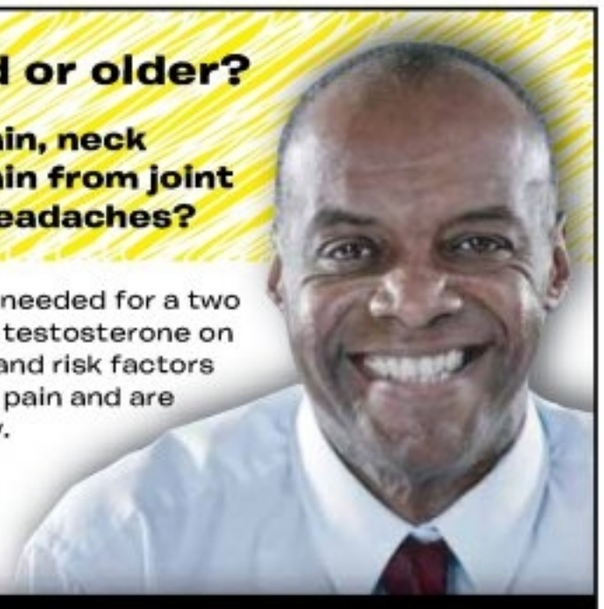

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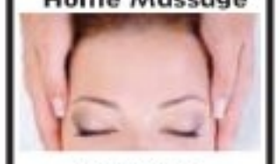

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